

NSC BRIEFING

13 June 1957

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FRANCE'S NEW GOVERNMENT

- I. Investiture of Bourges-Maunoury by 240-194 vote--less than absolute majority--continues minority government with doubtful support. 298 out 595
- A. Socialists, most Radicals and some 60 rightists supported.
1. Communists and Poujadists opposed.
- B. Last minute abstention of Popular Republicans cut majority.
1. Rightists warned their vote does not bind them.
- C. However, Premier considered adroit manipulator and may hold on until fall.
- II. Retention of Lacoste as Minister in Algeria expected to mean immediate increase in pacification effort.
- A. Opponents of Lacoste policy turned down ministries.
- B. Bourges-Maunoury himself takes strong line.
1. Sparked Suez war as solution to Algeria.
2. Leaked classified information to blame British for failure and to play up own role.
- C. Nevertheless, Premier has promised to press administrative and political reform with temporary statute.
- III. On finances he has warned deputies he will:
- A. Ask new taxes--(the issue on which Mollet fell).
- B. Request Bank of France advance and dip into gold reserve by 1 July.

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